

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension or )  
Revocation of the Educator Certificate )  
of Curtis R. Ballard )  
Certificate 124207 )

**CONSENT ORDER OF  
PERMANENT  
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER  
AND REVOCATION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

On July 11, 2007, the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) summarily suspended the educator certificate of Curtis R. Ballard, certificate 124207, as a result of his arrest on July 5, 2007. Mr. Ballard was arrested and charged with four counts of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor. Mr. Ballard's arrest was based on allegations that he knowingly communicated through the Internet to a person he believed to be thirteen years of age and living in Spartanburg County, South Carolina by performing a sexual activity in the presence of the victim via his web camera. The allegations were based on an investigation conducted by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

On July 13, 2007, the South Carolina State Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Ballard of the summary suspension and his right to a hearing by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On July 16, 2007, Mr. Ballard notified the SCDE that he had resigned from the Pickens County School District effective July 11, 2007, and had subsequently retired.

On October 17, 2007, Mr. Ballard entered a guilty plea to one count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor. The Court sentenced Mr. Ballard to a term of five years suspended with probation for three years, subject to the South Carolina Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole Services standard conditions of probation. As a result of this matter, Mr. Ballard has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to permanently surrender his South Carolina educator's certificate.

Curtis R.  
Ballard  
124207  
CB  
J. M. Hertz  
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### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Curtis A. Ballard held a valid South Carolina educator certificate and had over twenty-seven years of teaching experience with the Pickens County School District. For the 2006-2007 school year, Mr. Ballard was employed as a science teacher at Easley High School. Mr. Ballard resigned from his employment with the District on July 11, 2007, following his arrest on July 5, 2007, on four counts of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor. Mr. Ballard's arrest was based on allegations that he knowingly communicated through the Internet to a female person he believed to be thirteen years of age and living in Spartanburg, South Carolina, for the purpose of performing a sexual activity in the presence of the victim via his web camera. The allegations were based upon an investigation of an allegation conducted by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

On July 11, 2007, the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Ballard's educator certificate, certificate 124207, as a result of his arrest on July 5, 2007. On July 13, 2007, the South Carolina State Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Ballard of the summary suspension and his right to a hearing by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On July 16, 2007, Mr. Ballard notified the SCDE that he had resigned from the Pickens County School District, effective July 11, 2007, and had subsequently retired.

On October 17, 2007, Mr. Ballard entered a guilty plea to one count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor. The Court sentenced Mr. Ballard to a term of five years suspended with probation for three years, subject to the South Carolina Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole Services standard conditions of probation. Mr. Ballard's computer activity will be monitored. The Court further ordered that Mr. Ballard shall register with the Sex Offender Registry and shall complete the Sexual Intervention Program conducted by Dr. Karl R. Bocktorf. As a result of this matter, Mr. Ballard has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to permanently surrender his South Carolina educator's certificate.

Curtis A.  
Ballard  
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11/18/07  
Date

Mr. Ballard voluntarily agrees to the permanent surrender of his certificate 124207 and agrees to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will become permanently invalid and revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the permanent voluntary surrender; (2) he may never re-apply for a South Carolina educator certificate; (3) he waives his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (4) he agrees that his surrender will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent voluntary surrender and revocation with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, immorality and conduct involving moral turpitude."

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2006). Just cause includes: "Unprofessional conduct, Crime against the law of this State or the United States, immorality and any conduct involving moral turpitude." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2006). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Ballard, supports the State Board's decision that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 124207, issued under the name of Curtis R. Ballard, and to permanently revoke this educator certificate effective November 14, 2007. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of Mr. Ballard's educator certificate 124207 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Curtis R. Ballard
124207
<i>CB</i>
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11/8/07
Date

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: John E. Tindal  
John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

November 8, 2007

I, Curtis R. Ballard, S.C. Educator Certificate 124207, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have a right to a hearing in this matter. I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender said certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public school in the State of South Carolina. I agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender and Revocation, consisting of four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on November 14, 2007.

Curtis R. Ballard  
Curtis R. Ballard

11/8/2007  
Date